

Our Time
55+

FALL
2025

End 2025 with
Cannon Beach Vibes

Mapping the Oregon Shore

What's new at
Tillamook State Park

Our Time
Special Section
Inside

North Coast

Serving North Tillamook County since 1996

CITIZEN

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Photos by Finn Findling

Kite Fest takes flight in Rockaway

STAFF REPORT

Rockaway Beach's 49th annual Kite Festival returned this past weekend, with flyers entertaining crowds of onlookers from September 12 to 14.

The festival, sponsored by the American Kitefliers Association, welcomed both professional and amateur fliers for a weekend of friendly competition and exhibitions.

Throughout the weekend, participants took part in a variety of contests, including ones for the nicest kite, the kite that drags on the ground longest before becoming airborne and many more.

Vendors also set up at the city's wayside, offering festival-goers the chance to purchase kites of their own, with lessons also available for new fliers.



Wyden focuses on healthcare in Tillamook town hall

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

In his 1,135th town hall, held at the Officers' Mess at the Port of Tillamook Bay on September 5, Senator Ron Wyden responded to questions posed by constituents concerned about a range of issues from federal intervention in Oregon to his stance on Israel.

Focus returned repeatedly to healthcare policy, with questioners asking about cuts to Medicare funding passed in Republicans' recent budget bill and Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Junior's impacts on public health. Wyden pointed to a confrontation with Kennedy the previous day about vaccines as a model for pushing back against the secretary and said that he would continue to fight for Americans' access to insurance.

"We're not going to let him or anyone else, Democrat or Republican, turn back the clock on healthcare in America," Wyden said.

The town hall drew a considerable crowd and most of the questions focused on Wyden and other congressional Democrats' response to various policies being advanced by President Donald Trump.

Anxiety about healthcare bubbled to the top repeatedly, with Wyden reassuring attendees that he would do everything in his power to protect funding for Medicare and Medicaid and push to increase that funding with taxes on the wealthy. "I'm trying to make sure we're doing everything we can to protect people to the greatest extent possible," Wyden said, "and if I have my way, we're going to start rolling some of the tax breaks back for the affluent and get that money for healthcare."

Concerns about Kennedy's impact on access to reproductive care for women and vaccine recommendations was another recurrent theme among the questioners. Wyden said that at a hearing the previous day he had pushed Kennedy on his anti-vaccine stances, with several Republican colleagues also expressing concern, and argued that this type of pointed questioning was a model for future interactions with Kennedy. "The whole idea is to use what happened yesterday as a kind of trampoline to get more



Wyden addresses Tillamook constituents at a town hall at the Port of Tillamook Bay on September 5.

discussion about what we really want, which is a safe vaccine program," Wyden said.

Wyden pledged that he would also continue to support legislation promoting women's right to make reproductive health choices and that he believed the Democratic party should focus on

promoting healthcare for all and better access to mental healthcare to bounce back from the defeat in 2024 elections.

Wyden also addressed concerns about Trump's deployment of

See **WYDEN**, Page A3



Oregon State Representative Cyrus Javadi

Javadi discusses party switch

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Following growing frustration with his party's lack of support, Oregon State Representative Cyrus Javadi switched his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat in the first week of September.

In an interview with the Headlight Herald, discussing the decision to change parties, Javadi said that Republicans' steadfast opposition to working on a solution for transportation in the recent special legislative session was the deciding factor, confirming a feeling that the party was not interested in finding solutions.

"Well, I had enough, honestly," Javadi said, "I was frustrated with what had been pretty consistent opposition from my own party to do things for the north coast or Oregon that I thought were reasonable solutions to problems we were having and it wasn't just that they disagreed on principle, they disagreed for reasons I thought were bad, for politics."

Javadi grew up in a home where politics were not discussed much, and he said that he admired Ronald Reagan as a child, was a fan of Bill Clinton aside from his personal indiscretions and thought, at the time, that George W. Bush did a good job of responding to the September 11 attacks.

As Mitt Romney became nationally prominent during his 2008 and 2012 campaigns, Javadi said that he was drawn to Romney's willingness to work with people from both sides of the aisle to find solutions, citing his work on health insurance as Massachusetts Governor, leading him to join the Republican party around 2012. While Javadi was not excited about Donald Trump's performance in his first

See **JAVADI**, Page A3

Rockaway council nixes Nedonna Wave second phase

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Following a remand from Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, Rockaway Beach's city council reversed a previous decision and overturned a planning commission approval of the second phase of the Nedonna Wave subdivision, denying the application on September 9.

A revised staff opinion that advised developers had not met a required timeline to improve infrastructure for the development and were requesting to build in a special area wetland zone after consulting county mapping data led to the decision.

The proposal for the 28-unit Nedonna Wave planned unit development was first brought to Rockaway Beach's planning commission and city council for approval in 2008. After securing initial approval from the city for the project, developers later applied to break the development into two phases and completed eight phase-one houses by 2009.

Following the real estate market crash in 2008, the second phase of the project was put on the shelf until in 2024 when the developer returned to the city asking that the phase-two plans be amended to allow for two additional units. Planning commission approved the request last July, while rejecting a request to divide the second phase into two sub-phases.

This decision triggered an appeal to the city from the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition on several grounds relating to the timeline and zoning restrictions on wetland development, but in Novem-

See **ROCKAWAY COUNCIL**, Page A3



7 29467 70001 8

CLASSIFIEDS

706 Estate Sales

Ryan Family Estate Sale. 9/26-28th, 8-5 pm daily. Everything 4sale: tools, fishing, hunting, & antiques. 18919 Inglis Rd, Clatskanie, OR 97016.

790 Misc Wanted

PAYING TOP \$\$DOLLAR\$\$ for sport card collections. Premium paid for vintage pre-1980 Call Corey 541-838-0364

CryptoQuip answer

After an opponent prevented me from getting even one point, I had to give him a shutout shout-out.

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		+		= 8
+		+		+	
	+	7	x		= 90
-		x		+	
	+		+		= 18
=		=		=	
1		48		22	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

5	9	1	3	7	4	6	8	2
7	6	4	9	2	8	1	5	3
2	3	8	6	5	1	7	4	9
8	5	6	2	1	7	3	9	4
4	1	2	5	9	3	8	7	6
9	7	3	4	8	6	5	2	1
1	2	9	7	3	5	4	6	8
3	4	7	8	6	9	2	1	5
6	8	5	1	4	2	9	3	7

SNOWFLAKES
solution

Super Crossword FULLY STATED

ACROSS
1 Despises
7 Tennis great Rafael
12 Loutish guy
15 Drop- (declines)
19 Comed beef sandwich
20 Kind of daisy
21 Bullring shout
22 Perfume bottle
23 Baseball's "Iron Man," fully stated?
26 Western U.S. gas brand
27 Hit sketch show since '75
28 Atop
29 Move, as a seedling
31 Slitch clothes
32 Statistic of a chemical element, fully stated?
39 Protein in egg white and milk
41 Panther
42 2010s dance move often done with the Whip
43 Tropical vines
44 —'s razor ("keep it simple" principle)
47 Fallon's network
49 Singer Ora
50 Irritability, fully stated?
53 — Lingus
55 Some racing autos
56 Evil "Get Smart" group
57 Tyro, in gaming lingo
58 Actor Cage, informally
60 Sneeze noise
62 Prefix with tourism
63 "Aladdin" monkey
65 Auto-cleaning site, fully stated?
68 "I knew it all —!"
71 Once surnamed
72 "Thank you, Yvette!"
73 Lode of unrefined metal, fully stated?
78 — -di-dah
79 .001 inch
82 Singer Cherry
83 Hoppy drink
84 UConn women's basketball coach
Auriemma
86 Radiohead title track of 2000
87 Prone (to)
88 British islet
90 Biblical boat, fully stated?
95 Architect
Ludwig Mies van der —
97 Fun, in brief
99 "The — Professor"
100 Tribe of the Southwest
101 Grads
103 Ear-busting
105 Mistaken
106 Annual beauty contest, fully stated?
111 Sorority letter
112 Motif
113 Solitary
114 Up roar
117 At the drop of —
119 "Mystic River" actor, fully stated?
125 Christ, in Italy
126 CPR expert
127 French ice cream
128 Focal point
129 Punta del —
130 Enzyme suffix
131 Useful thing
132 Believers in God, of sorts
DOWN
1 Circle bits
2 Coffee bit
3 Uproar
4 Kabuki sash
5 Sports official
6 — -Caps (candy brand)
7 Not for Windows
8 Truism
9 Country singer Carter
10 Scottish port
11 Luau gift
12 Certain cola container
13 Hebrew "A"
14 Rail against
15 Egg cells
16 Initial performance on Broadway, say
17 Inked cheek image, e.g.
18 Period when sales slump
24 Destroy
25 Baby buggy, in Britain
30 Airport agcy.
33 North African capital
34 Muscat's land
35 Soup with tofu
36 Junk email
37 Kind of wrestling
38 Always
39 Comparable
40 Pale purple
44 Bear, in Baja
45 Alternative to vanilla, informally
46 Native of Habana
48 Part of B.A.
51 Overwhelm
52 Stranded cellular stuff
54 Cattle locale
59 Dogma suffix
61 Some film FX
63 Hilo "Hello!"
64 "— voyage!"
66 Abode: Abbr.
67 Ounce, e.g.
68 Writer Levin
69 Birthday topic
70 Hair stiffener
73 Running riot
74 Buffs again
75 Devotee
76 Put in writing
77 Trial balloon
79 Criminals
80 Boise locale
81 Cutting beam
85 Anti's vote
86 Tree knots
89 Body of water west of Liverpool
91 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" song)
92 German auto
93 "Citizen —"
94 Impressionist
96 "Mom" has two
98 Weather conditions
102 Tiny criticism
104 Uncork, e.g.
105 Judith with two Tonys
107 Looks as if
108 Arm bones
109 For the — (temporarily)
110 Map blowup
115 Cut calories
116 Boaters' tools
118 Mon. follower
120 Links gp.
121 Letters before 96-Down
122 PC readout of a sort
123 Winning sign
124 Singer DiFranco

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132

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Editor: Will Chappell, email headlighteditor@countrymedia.net
Advertising: Katherine Mace, email headlighttads@countrymedia.net
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LETTER POLICY
The Citizen welcomes letters that express readers' opinions on current topics. Letters may be submitted by email only, no longer than 300 words, and must be signed and include the writer's full name, address (including city) and telephone number for verification of the writer's identity. We will print the writer's name and town of residence only. Letters without the requisite identifying information will not be published. Letters are published in the order received and may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, punctuation or clarity. We do not publish group emails, open letters, form letters, third-party letters, letters attacking private individuals or businesses, or letters containing advertising.

Deadline for letters is noon Fridays.
The date of publication will depend on space.

Obituaries
The North Coast Citizen has several options for submitting obituaries.

- *Basic Obituary*: Includes the person's name, age, town of residency, and information about any funeral services. No cost.
- *Custom Obituary*: You choose the length and wording of the announcement. The cost is \$100 for the first 200 words, \$75 for each additional 200 words. Includes a small photo at no additional cost.
- *Premium Obituary*: Often used by families who wish to include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of the announcement.

All obituary announcements are placed on the North Coast Citizen website at no cost.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Z equals G

BVSUL BO PWWPOUOS
WLUGUOSUC KU VLPK ZUSSJOZ
UGUO POU WPJOS, J NBC SP
ZJGU NJK B ENTSPTS ENPTS-PTS.

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Weekly SUDOKU

5	9				6	8	
	6			2			
	3	8			1	7	
					3		4
				3			6
9			4			2	1
1			7		4	6	
	4		8		2		
		5	1				7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Super Crossword
Answers

A	B	H	O	R	S		N	A	D	A	L		C	A	D		O	F	F	S					
R	E	U	B	E	N		O	X	E	Y	E		O	L	E		V	I	A	L					
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	R	I	P	K	E	N		A	R	C	O					
S	N	L				U	P	O	N			R	E	P	O	T		S	E	W					
			A	T	O	M	I	C	M	A	S	S	A	C	H	U	S	E	T	S					
			A	L	B	U	M	I	N		P	U	M	A		N	A	E	N	A					
			L	I	A	N	A	S		O	C	C	A	M		N	B	C	R	I	T	A			
			I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	H	U	M	O	R		A	E	R		G	T	S		
			K	A	O	S				N	O	O	B			N	I	C		A	C	H	O	O	
			E	C	O		A	B	U		C	A	R	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N		
						A	L	O	N		N	E	E		M	E	R	C	I						
			O	R	E	G	O	N	D	E	P	O	S	I	T		L	A	H		M	I	L		
			N	E	N	E	H		A	L	E			G	E	N	O			K	I	D	A		
			A	P	T		A	I	T		N	O	A	H	S	A	R	K		A	N	S	A	S	
			R	O	H	E		R	E	C		N	U	T	T	Y		A	P	A	C	A	S	E	
			A	L	U	M	N	I		L	O	U				I	N	E	R	R	O	R			
			M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I			U	N	I	V	E	R	S	E		
			P	S	I		T	H	E	M	E					L	O	N	E			A	D	O	
			A	H	A	T		S	E	A	N	P	E	N	N	S		S	Y	L	V	A	N	I	A
			G	E	S	U		E	M	T		G	L	A	C	E		C	E	N	T	E	R		
			E	S	T	E		A	S	E		A	S	S	E	T		D	E	I	S	T	S		

FENCEPOSTS

The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad McCloud Number 25 locomotive turns 100 this weekend, and OCSR has a full slate of activities scheduled to celebrate this historic milestone.

Sharp-eyed passengers and fans of the steam engine have likely noticed the plaque near the front of the boiler, showing that the locomotive was constructed in Schenectady, New York in September 1925, by the American Locomotive Company (ALCO). Number 25 was destined for the McCloud River Railroad, operating around Mt. Shasta in northern California, in towns like Weed and Redding, the Red River area and elsewhere.

In rail enthusiast terms, Number 25 is one of four 2-6-2 “Prairie” type steam locomotives built by ALCO, meaning there are two



leading wheels, six drive wheels, and two trailing wheels. Along with locomotives number 22, 23 and 24, the total cost for these four steam engines was \$90,000 (over \$1.6 million today). Number 25 was the largest and final steam locomotive purchased by the McCloud River Railroad. After retiring from original service on July 3, 1955, the #25 was restored for excursion service in 1962.

The McCloud 25 then

served the Mt. Shasta Alpine Scenic Railway in the Sixties and Seventies. In 1975, it played an important role in the film Bound for Glory, the Woody Guthrie biography. At the conclusion of filming, it went back into storage.

In 1982, Number 25 was rebuilt and leased to the Great Western Railroad Museum. It remained there through 1986, when Hollywood called again. Number 25 had a terrifying role in the Stephen King film Stand By Me, the tale of four adolescent boys hiking into the forest to see a dead body. At one point, they cross a high railroad trestle deep in the woods. When the trestle begins shaking, they look behind them to see a locomotive steaming towards them. In a panic, they rush to clear the trestle to avoid a gruesome death.

Our time with the Num-

ber 25 began in 2011, when OCSR purchased it, storing it in the Tillamook Air Museum’s blimp hangar. It began service with OCSR in July 2011. It recently underwent the federally mandated 1472-day inspection, required whenever a steam engine completes 1472 days (four years) or 15 years of service, whichever comes first.

This weekend, OCSR is celebrating this storied locomotive with a series of special activities, including discount pricing and unique excursions. On Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21, all roundtrip tickets are discounted to \$25, and cab rides (where you ride in the cab with the engineers) are \$100. The standard excursion is a 30-minute train ride followed by a 30-minute layover and concluding with a 30-minute return trip. (Tip: Make sure you depart from and return to

the location where your car is parked.)

On Saturday September 20 at 4 p.m., OCSR offers a 4-hour round-trip excursion from Garibaldi to Wheeler. A 2.5-hour version departs from Rockaway Beach at 4:45 PM. As always, arrive 30 minutes early to ensure your place on board.

Also, this weekend OCSR joins with the West Coast Railroaders Group to offer railroad speeder rides. If you were among the many a few weeks ago who wondered at the small, “golf cart”-like vehicles traveling between Wheeler and Rockaway, that was what you saw. Also called motorcars, speeders were developed for railroad maintenance crews to travel where needed. Speeder rides will not take children under 2 or pets. You can purchase walkup tickets from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. both days.

On Saturday, September 20, you can also see a selection of vintage automobiles when the Beaver Chapter of the Model A Club of America presents a display of Ford Model A cars. A follow-up to Ford’s Model T, the Model A (1927-1931) offered improved comfort and utility. The Model As will be displayed in the parking lot between the OCSR boarding area, 306 American Avenue in Garibaldi, and Lumberman’s Memorial Park between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the 20th.

For details, call (503) 842-7972 or browse <https://oregoncoastscenic.org> to purchase tickets. Be sure to select your initial departure carefully, noting whether you are leaving from Garibaldi or Rockaway, and arrive 30 minutes before your departure time.

Here we are again. Writing this piece hasn’t become a habit yet; what is it, three times to make a habit? Well, this is number 3.

Still waiting on the sun for the tomatoes—their green skins glisten with morning dew, and the earthy scent of damp soil lingers in the air. At least I’m not watering as much as I was earlier in the season. Every morning, I peek out the window and check the weather app, fingers crossed for a stretch of sunlight, but so far, the clouds have had other plans. Maybe tomorrow the tomatoes will finally get their wish.

While it’s been a quiet week for me, I understand that the city’s first street fee billing has gone out, taking many citizens by surprise. The problem is the street

fund has no direct funding source. The city gets grants for paving, such as the Small Cities Allotment from ODOT for a specific project, but otherwise funds have to be transferred from the general fund or from the transient room tax fund so street work can be done. Street work includes paving and repairing streets (think potholes), as well as mowing and other maintenance of rights-of-way.

Originally, city management proposed a monthly street fee (transportation utility fee, or a TUF) of \$19 to cover the cost of needed street maintenance. During the budget process, the Budget Committee reduced the proposed fee by transferring funds from the transient room tax fund to the street fund, resulting in



a “reduced” fee on your water/sewer/street bill for the current year. Otherwise, that fee would be \$19 instead of \$10.

It was explained to me this way. In Oregon, property tax growth is limited to 3% per year. Has been that way for some time. Expenses, however, are not limited, so their growth has been 6, 8, 10% over time. The city gets its money from prop-

erty taxes. So “revenue” is limited in growth potential. No amount of garage sales can help here. No bake sales. There are very few alternative options available. The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) is researching this topic in depth and has publications showing the various options a city can employ to fund basic activities, such as street maintenance. This TUF is it.

Oh, I am really in the city today and have more “city” things for you this week. First, related to watering. If the water portion of your bill has gone up because you are a watering fool like me, there is a reduction available to you from the city. When you water outdoors, that water, which you pay for, is not going down a sewer drain. So,

the city is able to consider reducing the sewer portion of the bill for the increase in water used – check with the city to see if you are eligible for any reduction.

Second, as these utility costs go up, please consider your neighbors who may be facing increased hardships in paying bills. The city does still have a “sewer discount fund” that is used to assist city residents with their water and sewer bills. Even a small donation, or a rounding up every month, would be helpful.

I have one final pitch for you. Many of you might know that I wear a bunch of hats, one of which is the TaxAide program that provides tax services to individuals at no cost. It is a volunteer program that I have been involved with for

over 15 years. It gets me out of the house, active in my community, stretches my mind and gives me social interaction. It carried me through many of my life journeys. I could depend on it. So, for those of you out there looking for something, think about volunteering. You can come play with me and the other volunteers at TaxAide, or pick up one of the many, many opportunities out there – Meals on Wheels, Care visiting, lunch Bunches, Food Bank, Fire Department, Senior Center, fraternal organizations like the Elks, Eagles, Lion’s – I can’t even name them all, but they are there for the picking. And they all need help. It does take a village and each one of us is a part of this village.

Let’s Talk Tillamook: Understanding the Future of the Oregon Health Plan

DR. TIM BORMAN
Semi-Retired Local Physician

Q: What is Medicaid, and how does it work in Oregon?

A: Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps cover medical costs for people with limited income. In Oregon, it’s called the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). OHP serves children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and elderly adults. Currently, the federal government pays about 76% of the cost, and Oregon pays about 24%.

Q: How does Medicaid differ from Medicare?

A: Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people age 65 and older, as well as some younger people with disabilities. Unlike OHP, Medicare has the same rules across all states and typically requires participants to pay premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance. Medicare generally does not cover long-term nursing home care. That gap is filled by OHP, which pays for services for about 60% of nursing home residents in Oregon.

Q: How many people rely on OHP in Oregon and here in Tillamook?

A: Across the state, 59% of children and 34% of adults are covered. Nearly half of all births in Or-

egon are paid for through OHP. Here in Tillamook County, about 8,000–8,500 people—roughly one-third of the population—are enrolled.

Q: Who qualifies for OHP?

A: Eligibility depends on income, family size, and health status. For example, a family of four with an annual income below about \$43,000 may qualify. OHP is designed to help people who might not otherwise afford health insurance.

Q: What changes are coming to OHP?

A: Beginning January 2027, Oregon will receive less federal Medicaid funding. That means fewer services and fewer people eligible for OHP. Rural areas like Tillamook are expected to feel the cuts hardest. Without insurance, people often delay care until it becomes urgent, leading to worse outcomes and much higher costs. For example, an urgent care visit might cost \$150–\$250, while an ER visit for the same condition could be \$1,500–\$3,000. If small hospitals can’t keep up, some may close.

Eric Swanson, president of Adventist Health Tillamook, notes that 35% of the hospital’s patients rely on OHP. He warns that cuts will be “devastating to

people on Medicaid.”

Q: What about the new work requirement?

A: Also in 2027, most OHP members ages 19–64 will have to document at least 80 hours of work per month (or prove exemption) to keep coverage. While 71% of OHP members already work, many who don’t are elderly or disabled. The online reporting system may create barriers, especially for rural residents with limited internet access.

Q: What can people do now?

A: If you think you may qualify for OHP, it’s best to apply before December 2026, when enrollment will likely become more complicated. Visit the Oregon Health Plan website or contact the Tillamook County Community Health Center for help applying.

Editor’s Note
Let’s Talk Tillamook is a community series that shares how federal policies affect our lives in Tillamook County. This Q&A is based on an interview with Dr. Tim Borman, a semi-retired local physician, on what changes to Medicaid mean for our community. Listen to the full interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM-B9K-buh90>

OBITUARY

Louise V. Christianson
Feb. 16, 1939 – Aug. 11, 2025

Louise Vitalis Christianson, Tillamook County’s whirlwind of compassion and enthusiasm for all things people, animals, good causes, and Mother Earth, was stilled by cancer the morning of Aug. 11, 2025, when she died at her home in Bayside Gardens. She was 86 years old.

Born Feb. 16, 1939, in Mishawaka, Ind., Louise worked at the family furniture store before heading west to San Francisco in the early 1960’s to work in the Finance and Investment field.

When not managing money she volunteered for a variety of local causes - whales, rescue dogs, the library, Big Sisters, recycling, and the San Francisco Opera. She also competed in ballroom dancing. She once spent two weeks with a group navigating the Colorado River. Mother Earth was her cathedral, and she was known to hug trees with the same spirit she did her dogs and her friends.

A camping trip to the Pacific Northwest sparked her interest in Oregon and prompted her move to Neahkahnie in 1994. In subsequent years she supported and got herself involved in a wide range of local causes -- all in bet-



terment to the community. Those included the North County Food and Clothing Bank, Lower Nehalem Community Trust, Manzanita-Wheeler Kiwanis, Columbia River Keepers, Tillamook Animal Shelter, Animal Haven by the Sea, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, AARP, Salvation Army, Save The Redwoods, Doctors Without Borders, Environmental Defense Fund and any number of others.

Louise’s garden was a riot of colors and showed her tender attention to the needs of the plants. This wasn’t easy on her steep Neahkahnie lot, but she even started a business called “Garden Babies” in her greenhouse there.

When not outside with her flowers she enjoyed watching professional sports - particularly football and baseball. And then there were her dogs: Katie

the Doberman; Mara the Malamute mix, and Zephyr the blue-eyed Husky.

Louise purchased her spacious one-level Bayside Gardens home in 2015. Zephyr moved there too and loved the large, fenced yard. After Zephyr, Louise started adopting senior dogs that required extra attention: Gee Gee, Handsome Joe, and Cooper. She gave them all a good life.

Louise was predeceased by her brothers John and Robert. She is survived by her sisters Sr. Roberta Christianson of Donaldson, Ind., and Sr. Jean Christianson of Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz, Mexico; sister-in-law Jan Christianson of Mishawaka, Ind.; nieces Amy Jacoby and Jean Richards; nephews Jack, Patrick and Steve Christianson, and 13 great nieces and nephews.

She also leaves behind a lot of good friends who will miss her.

Louise specifically did not want a memorial service to be held in her honor. Instead, she left instructions for a “Party.” In the coming months an appropriate time and place will be announced to mark the passing of a loving dynamo, who touched so many lives in her community.

Even Exchange

answers

1. Bride, Brine

2. Crest, Crust

3. Later, Litter

4. Chili, Chili

5. Talker, Tanker

6. Elate, State

7. Nickel, Nicked

8. Danny, Dandy

9. Forge, Force

10. Austin, Austen

WORDS ENDING IN “-BER”

C H R R R R
A E E E E
M S B B B
R R R R R
E E E E E
B B B B B
T L N N R
R E B B A L C
C R E B M U L S

Go Figure!

answers

2 + 1 + 5 = 8

3 + 7 x 9 = 90

4 + 6 + 8 = 18

1 48 22

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Wedding star

2. Top of the wave

3. Second of two

4. Relax, will you?

5. Chatterbox

6. Fill with joy

7. 5-cent piece

8. “Oh, ___ boy”

9. Kiln

10. Texas capital

___ D ___

___ E ___

___ A ___

___ L ___

___ L ___

___ N ___

___ G ___

___ I ___

Salt water

Loaf’s outer layer

Highway debris

Tex-Mex stew

Oil ship

Blue-gray color

Scratched

Fine and ___

Power, strength

Novelist Jane

___ N ___

___ U ___

___ I ___

___ I ___

___ N ___

___ D ___

___ C ___

___ E ___

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County officials urge public to comment on biological opinion

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

With the public comment period on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s changes to its flood insurance plan open, Tillamook County commissioners and Community Development Director Sarah Absher are urging residents to submit comment in favor of a no-change alternative.

Absher appeared at the commissioners’ meeting on September 10, updating the board on progress on the decades-long process that threatens to stymie development in areas of special flood hazard across Oregon, with major potential impacts for Tillamook County.

Work on updating the requirements for participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) flood insurance program has been ongoing since a 2009 lawsuit by the Audubon Society, which claimed that FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program

(NFIP) was harming coho salmon in Oregon in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FEMA commissioned the National Marine Fisheries Service to investigate the claim and in 2016, the fisheries service released a biological opinion saying that the flood insurance plan was causing an illegal take of coho, other anadromous fish species and orca whales. This meant that FEMA needed to update the requirements of partner governments in the flood insurance plan to comply with federal statute.

But that work was delayed, first by a 2016 suit against FEMA by Oregonians for Floodplain Protection and then by a 2018 congressional delay of three years passed by former Congressman Peter Defazio. When the implementation stay expired in 2021, progress resumed on updating the program, with a proposal for updates released in 2023.

The biological opinion called for the program to

update the ordinances for building in flood plains to achieve zero net loss in three areas of floodplain functionality that help preserve fish habitat: flood storage, water quality and riparian vegetation.

Under the new rules, any projects proposed in the 100-year floodplain would have to include mitigation efforts that would lead to no loss in any of the three fish habitat functions to receive building permits. Since FEMA is a federal agency and not allowed to make land use laws, it falls on the localities it partners with in the flood insurance program to implement the new standards.

Localities in Oregon that do not come into compliance with those requirements will be excluded from the NFIP and could also risk FEMA funding in response to natural disasters.

Last December, under pressure from FEMA to update codes to comply with the biological opinion while NEPA reviews were ongoing, county commissioners instead chose to require proposed developments in areas of special flood hazard to submit a letter from a certified biologist saying that the proposed project would cause no take of endangered species.

Since then, Absher has continued representing the county in the ongoing NEPA review process being led by FEMA, which is gauging the social, environmental and economic impacts of the proposed changes to development codes. Public comment on three alternatives is now being accepted through October 6.

The three alternatives include a no-action alternative and two options that would allow counties and cities to choose from

among four paths to come into compliance with the no-net-loss standard put forward in the biological opinion, with one exempting projects that complete federal permitting from that requirement, and the other not.

The four pathways for coming into compliance under the latter two options are adopting FEMA’s model ordinance, showing that a jurisdiction’s current ordinances meet no-net-loss standards, developing a customized community plan to meet the standards or pursuing an alternative means of compliance with the endangered species act outside of the FEMA process.

Absher said that in the current public comment period, FEMA is soliciting feedback on which of the three alternatives would be preferable and the impacts each would have on communities.

As part of her presentation, Absher shared data showing that if no-net-loss standards were adopted, building a 1,500 square foot home with a 20-by-40-foot driveway in an area of special flood hazard would require .26 acres for mitigation to offset the loss in floodplain storage capacity. Absher said that this would increase costs by around 10% if mitigation could be accomplished on the same property and around 30% if it had to be undertaken at another property, with similar cost impacts for agricultural and industrial development, but that with the average urban lot in Tillamook just .17 acres, she feared many properties would become undevelopable.

Absher stressed that by FEMA’s definition development includes road building, dredging, fencing, excavation, paving,

pier building, storage of equipment and building utility infrastructure in the floodplain, posing a serious threat to the ability to repair and improve infrastructure, businesses and homes across the county.

The updates would also include requirements that any trees removed from properties be replaced by between three and five trees on the same property or six to ten elsewhere and increase setback requirements for waterways from 15 to 50 feet to 170.

Implementing the changes would also be a costly process, with Absher estimating that it would cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for each city and county in the state to implement, with 30 of Oregon’s 36 counties impacted and no financial assistance offered by FEMA. There would also be ongoing monitoring costs for local governments as well as maintenance costs for property owners relating to mitigation efforts that could range from \$2,500 annually for onsite mitigation projects to \$7,400 for offsite.

Following the public comment period, FEMA will conclude the NEPA process and send a letter informing jurisdictions of their decision, at which point governments will have 18 months to update their codes.

Absher said that given the drastic impact such changes would have across Tillamook County, she was urging residents to submit public comment, with online, mail and meeting options accessible through floodplainprotection.org. Per Absher, comments should focus on the potential impacts of the alternatives to residents, opinions on which alternative FEMA should select and why, and any new infor-

mation or data that would change the analysis.

Absher said that a large number of public comments could impact FEMA’s choice among the alternatives or garner the attention of members of Oregon’s congressional delegation who could intervene.

Commissioners Erin Skaar, Paul Fournier and Mary Faith Bell all thanked Absher for her presentation and said that they would share a link to her presentation and the commenting options on the main page of the county’s website to make it easier for residents to find. Each of the commissioners also said that they encouraged citizens to support alternative one, the no-change alternative that would leave the county’s current development codes in effect.

Skaar said that while this option would not meet the requirements of the endangered species act, supporting it would send the message to FEMA that the other two options presented were not feasible for the county and hopefully encourage them to look for an alternate path forward.

Finally, Absher gave an update on Oregonians for Floodplain Protection’s battle against the updates, which is unfolding simultaneously. Absher said that the group had been in touch with members of Oregon’s congressional delegation, who have been listening, and that she hopes to see movement on that front soon.

A lawsuit filed last year opposing the requirements is also still wending its way through the legal system, with Absher saying that she expected to see progress on that front this fall.



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Tillamook County Pioneer Museum asks for community feedback

A lot has changed since the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum’s (TCPM) founding in 1935. New history, exhibits, and staff. But something remains the same: TCPM’s commitment to preserving the history of Tillamook County.

As TCPM looks to the future, they’re asking the community to be a part of the process.

“The Tillamook County Pioneer Museum Board is deeply committed to ensuring the museum grows alongside our community,” TCPM Board of Directors President Ryan Weber said. “We envision the museum as a vibrant gathering place where neighbors, families, and visitors can come together to connect with the history of our county in meaningful ways.”

TCPM is currently devel-

oping a five-year strategic plan to help guide the future of the museum.

“By embracing museum best practices and creating experiences that are both accessible and relevant to today, we aim to honor the past while inspiring the future,” Weber said. “These are the very reasons we are undertaking a five-year strategic planning process. We want to chart a thoughtful path forward that reflects our community’s voice and ensures the museum remains a place of pride for generations to come.”

The public is invited to participate in a community survey about TCPM. The survey can be found at: survey-monkey.com/r/TCPM2025

About the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum
Founded in 1935 by Til-

lamook Oregon pioneers, the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum offers 19 display areas that focus on the history of the North Oregon Coast. The museum’s mission is to preserve and interpret the Cultural Heritage of the North Oregon Coast and to foster appreciation and respect of the North Oregon Coast’s environment. The current collection includes 55,000 items and 20,000 photographs ranging from prehistoric specimens to modern-day.

The Tillamook County Pioneer Museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for children under the age of 10. The research library can be accessed by appointment only.

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